

WILSON PLANS TO SAVE HIS FACE ON PEACE STEP; SWEDEN'S ACT IS A JAR

**KAISER BEATEN, BRITISH SEE NO
DECLARES CZAR VISION OF PEACE**

<p>DECLARES WAR</p> <hr/> <p>Russian Emperor Tells His Army Peace Proffer Is Sign of Defeat.</p>	<p>VISION OF PEACE</p> <hr/> <p>Official Circles Say Germany Must First Advance an Idea of Terms.</p>	<p>CONSULTS LANSING</p> <hr/> <p>ON NEW PROCEDURE</p>
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PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 27.—In an order issued to all the units of the Russian army, dated December 25, the Czar, referring to Germany's proffer of

peace, asserted that the proffer was because Germany feels that her complete defeat is near. He added that the time for peace has not yet arrived and that the enemy's strength is apparently waning while that of Russia

President Wilson's note, unless Germany is willing to make suggestions in advance regarding her ideas of the terms of peace.

England and France have fully agreed upon the terms of the reply to be made

**BERNSTORFF SEES
COMPLETE HARMONY**

The Emperor's order says:
"Germany is feeling that her complete defeat is near, and near also is the hour of retribution for all her wrongdoings and violations of the moral law. As in the time of her strength she declared

war, so now feeling her weakness she offers to enter upon peace negotiations, desiring to complete such negotiations before her military strength is exhausted.

Creates False Impression.

"At the same time she is creating a false impression about the strength of her army by utilizing her temporary success over the Russians, who are suffering from the effects of modern warfare."

It is expected that once this reply has been for-warded the response to President Wilson's note will follow very shortly.

Russia's reply to the German peace proposals was telegraphed Monday to President Wilson, says a Reuter despatch from Petrograd.

The Allies' answer to the Central Powers' note, which was received in Paris and is now the subject of discussion between the various Ministers, it is understood will be for-warded to the President of the United States as a single thread.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—President Wilson and Secretary Lansing conferred at the White House to-day over the fate of the American peace notes. The President has not given up hope. But he is understood to realize that the situation is far from encouraging and that the potential influence of the United States as a peace factor now hangs by a single thread.

"This time has not yet arrived. The empire has not been given out of the provinces he has occupied. Russia's attitude is not such that she will give up Bessarabia, Bulgaria, Roumania, or war—regarding Constantinople and the Dardanelles, as well as the creation of a new Balkan state."

incomplete tribal districts—but not yet been guaranteed.

It is inconceivable peace at this moment would mean failure to utilize the fruits of the untold trials of the heroic Russian people. The Russian people have an still more sacred memory of those noble sons of Russia who have fallen on the field of battle than to permit the peace until final victory over her enemies.

Defiance of Germany.—“Who dares to think that he who brought about war shall have it in his power to conclude the war at any time he likes?”

The conclusion the Emperor, expressing confidence that no Russian soldier would desire peace until the enemy had been expelled from Russian soil and had

The Standard says: “It would be a mistake to neglect the German peace proposals, which would mean mortal to waste time and energy. We trust the Government will give President Wilson a perfectly courteous but also a definite reply and then get on with the war as energetically as possible.”

Mr. Lansing sometimes finds that impressions gained from press accounts of official documents remain with him even after the documents themselves are received, and when there is any slight variance in phraseology it often proves difficult to dissociate the official doc-

The Evening Star says: "Germany has replied in hot haste. She is working the Wilson note for all it is worth. She is trying to win by wiles. The contrast between her panting precipitancy and the Allies' leisurely languor is great. . . . There is grave, urgent need for cool wisdom and bold leadership in the circumstances. We hope with all our hearts that the following statement: "I regard the note of my Government

The *Boston Gazette*, which expresses the belief that the suggestion of President Wilson was not a casual act of the American Government, but the result of organized efforts of the neutral Powers, which are already equivalent to a neutral blockade, is now quite changed.

The affair is taking a serious turn. The union of neutral governments in an effort to secure a general and lasting peace is being quickly transformed into a combination of world interests, and the part played by the neutrals will have a tendency to lay the basis for a stable world peace.

Germany has been forced to recognize that peace cannot be secured "by the neutrals and their typewriters," but it

was outlined as follows:

Germany's foreign conference suggested by it first, should be composed of delegates from the belligerent countries whose duty it would be to settle territorial terms. Once these terms are settled, the neutrals should be called in to negotiate the peace. The neutrals should be called in to participate in consideration of the questions of guarantees for the future, in which nation

must arise out of the sacrifices and bloodshed of the past," says the German.

"All the neutrals together," says the *Bourne Gazette*, "cannot guarantee a world peace and disarmament. Only the Powers, and when the Germans again show their teeth they will be able to act as neutralizers, and thus be able to convince German psychology."

WILSON HAILS WILSON

AS THE AILY OF PEACEMONGERS

...drowned with impunity and all legal rights were lost. All the cardinal virtues. It would teach the world by letting the Americans do the taking and the Germans do the giving. The own way eventually, and the most practical politics.

...the impartiality of the American note supplies Germany with a coat of whitewash of which she was already in need. Germany proposes an immediate conference of belligerents which appears to her to be the most promising way of promoting a desire in the Entente.

Action by Sweden.

**'Neue Freie Presse' Says
Entente Cannot Now Refuse
German Proffer.**

LONDON, Dec. 28 (Thursday).—A Russian despatch from Vienna by way of Constantinople, which has been published in the London papers, regarding the peace proposals. Commenting on Austria's reply to President Wilson, the Neue Freie Presse says:—

"By our reply President Wilson's policy is at once allied with our own. The Entente can refuse nothing to the Central Powers, and we would not refuse to President Wilson. The Entente

Upon the German side the invitation meets with summary dismissal. The ill-considered and unbecomingly impetuous (the most dignified course now would be its frank withdrawal).

having been despatched. The advice is that the German Government should deliver in some of the belligerent capitals.

This may be said authoritatively. The Government would have no interest in its being made known. Indorsement from any of the other countries at this time. The Swedish court of Berlin that the Swedish king only gives the President's endeavor

The Westminster Gazette says:—"For two or three days the pretense was kept up that the German Government would not unfriendly attempt to snatch the prize

no longer face us alone, but also America, and the world in full harmony.

The Reichstag says:

"Our proposal gives the Entente a favorable opportunity to turn from the crime of war to the reconstruction of civilization. It is not a proposal to stop the armistice. Wilson sent his note almost simultaneously with ours, shows that he also has no intention of changing in the war situation impossible."

President Wilson is understood to be particularly chagrined over the fact that the Entente has not noted that it was not connected with the Council of the Central Powers has been brushed aside by the Entente committee.

So far no statesman of any of the Entente countries has taken this assertion of the President seriously. They have simply declined to accept it. It

The Arbeiter Zeitung says:
The German Government has been told that the President Wilson is inspired by the same high ideas as at their first peace offer. Conscious of their victories in Rumania, the French are therefore not to be deterred by speeches or writings in which the force that failed on the battlefields seeks to assert itself in phrases.

President Wilson to Go to-day.

[There apparently are many misunderstandings, both in England and in America, about the attitude of Wilson's Government, which makes it the more important that we should make our own position plain. Therefore, to inform our readers, we have had a careful and well reasoned statement of the position of the United States Government prepared, and it is hereby published. It is not a hasty dismissal of the American note as if it were ultra vires. The United States Government understands the position of the Entente, and it is not prepared to make any such dismissal.]

Effect of Swiss Statement.

In this connection the official statement of the Swiss Government must be observed to crystallize the Entente's position and to undermine the efforts of the United States Government to bring about peace suggestions immediately after the Berlin Foreign Office had made the same plea.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—President Wilson will celebrate his sixtieth birthday to-morrow. Congratulations began arriving to-day at the White House. He intends to work as usual.

pean struggle and has a hundred good reasons to desire peace, but it should not be difficult to make her see that a mere patched up truce would be as little to her interests as to ours." 5

tents that his action was taken independently and without consultation among other Powers.

The Swiss statement says that the Government of Switzerland has been